

**SUSTAIN Sustaining Development in Early School Education
518321-LLP-2011-TR-COMENIUS-CMP**

NOTIFICATION FOR SCHOOL VISIT

International Centre of the Cultures *Ubuntu*

Palermo, Italy

24th October 2013

*“Ubuntu does not mean that people should not enrich themselves.
The question therefore is:
Are you going to do so in order to enable the community around you to be able to improve?”
Nelson Mandela*



In the frame of the VI project meeting in Palermo, the SUSTAIN team visited the International Centre of the Cultures *Ubuntu*.

Ubuntu is a voluntary association born in 2006 in the heart of Palermo historical centre. It is based on the idea that “People cannot decide where to born but they have the right to decide where to live!”

Following the African UBUNTU philosophy from which the association was born, the aim of Ubuntu is to give help to families and people coming from different parts of the world, living and working in Palermo, by taking care of their children every day.

Ubuntu helps them live in the city according to their rights and duties and it works to foster the sense of citizenship of the people coming from different countries and cultures.

The centre mostly hosts second-generation migrants' children but also autochthon children living in socially disadvantaged conditions and it offers them the needed support for their intercultural education and their social and civic growth.

All people working in *Ubuntu* are volunteers. They work to support *Ubuntu*, spreading its own philosophy among people thanks to concrete daily actions.

In the morning *Ubuntu* is a baby parking for younger children who do not go to school or have no place in municipal kindergartens, numerically inadequate to meet the needs of the territory. The older children are taken from school and they have lunch in *Ubuntu*. After lunch the volunteers support the children with their homework. Later on, children can play all together.

Ubuntu also provides other support services to the local community as a free paediatric ambulatory, a legal help desk and a counselling centre.

Over the years *Ubuntu* has been working to create the conditions to allow children take actively part in the society and to understand the importance of reciprocal respect and active citizenship. *Ubuntu* uses dialogue and reciprocity as key elements for building positive human relationships and promotes active citizenship in order to educate children to a democratic coexistence.



International Centre of the Cultures *Ubuntu* has been chosen to implement the SUSTAIN project activities because of the relevance of its mission to Education for Sustainable Development. The history of this centre, its philosophy and its daily work in Palermo social context are strictly connected with Sustainable Development topics: World Citizenship and Democracy, Human Rights, Peace and Justice, Local and Global Responsibility.



During the visit, Mrs. Patrizia Pappalardo and Mrs. Claudia Moriniello welcomed partners presenting the Centre and its activities. Children, educators and SUSTAIN team spent a pleasant afternoon all together in Ubuntu.

The visit was an important occasion for the SUSTAIN project, allowing foreign partners to closely know an important local centre working in the intercultural educational field and fostering new perspectives for exchange and cooperation.